

Cuban 'Invasion' Was Necessary, Dulles Declares

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WASHINGTON — (AP) — This nation's former intelligence chief indicated Sunday that Fidel Castro's growing military strength set the timetable for last spring's abortive effort to overthrow the Cuban dictator.

Allen W. Dulles, who retired a few weeks ago as director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, said any move against Communist Castro, short of full scale U.S. military intervention, had to be made between November 1960 and April 1961.

Appearing on a recorded radio and TV program, Dulles said:

"... I think the historians of the future will probably say that if any move was to be made to get rid of communism in Cuba, short of actual military intervention with all the power of the United States, that effort would probably have to have been made sometime between, say November and April."

Asked whether the April invasion was the last chance to overthrow Castro without direct U.S. intervention, Dulles replied:

"Well, I wouldn't go quite that far, but I would go well along the line. We know ... that the Cuban pilots were being trained in Czechoslovakia. We knew they were going to have — very shortly available under Cuban direction — MIGs in considerable numbers and I am inclined to think, as I said before, that if a move was to be made short of intervention, probably this was the area of time when it had to be made. About November to April."

Dulles denied that the failure of the invasion was an intelligence failure.

"There was no military hardware that appeared that was a surprise to us," he said, but he conceded that "some of the material was a little better handled than we expected."



Allen Dulles

... recalls dates

"There is quite a popular misapprehension," Dulles continued, "that it was felt there would be a spontaneous uprising. We have never contemplated that. In the days of the war I worked a great deal with the French underground. The last thing we wanted was spontaneous uprisings, to be slaughtered by the Nazi troops. In the same way we were not looking for a spontaneous uprising, but for other developments."

He did not elaborate on what these other developments might have been.